

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/775,216
Response filed April 28, 2006
Reply to OA dated January 12, 2006

REMARKS

The specification and claim 5, 8, 10 and 12 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated January 12, 2006.

Claims 1 - 16 remain in this application.

As to the Examiner's outstanding objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure, the applicants submit herewith a re-written Abstract of the Disclosure in place of the originally filed Abstract. The revisions to the Abstract are in line with the Examiner's suggested amendments.

The applicants respectfully request that the re-written Abstract of the Disclosure submitted herewith be approved by the Examiner.

The Examiner objects to the drawings for the reasons set forth in item 1, page 2 of the outstanding Action. The Examiner suggests that the reference letter "a" be shown in the applicants' Figure 9. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this objection.

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In Figure 9, the signal "b" is illustrated as an output signal of the decoder 374. However, signal "a" is neither an input signal or an output signal; that is, as described in line 7, page 17 of the applicants' specification, the signal "a" "shows a period in which the counter 372 shown in FIG. 9 conducts counting."

Nevertheless, in order to address the Examiner's concern concerning the illustration of signal "a" in the applicants' Figure 9, the applicants submit herewith a replacement sheet for Figure 9, which includes such reference signal designation "a" within the block box representing the counter 372.

The applicants request that the replacement sheet for Figure 9 be accepted, and that the outstanding objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

The Examiner objects to the specification due to certain informalities, as outlined in item 2, pages 2 through 4 of the outstanding Action. The Examiner's comments include his suggestions on how to avoid the informalities in the applicants' specification.

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The applicants have amended the specification in order to correct certain informalities therein, including those noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding objections to the specification is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Furthermore, the Examiner's outstanding objections to the language of claims 8 and 12 -16 have been addressed by claim amendments; such as, the amendments to each of claims 8 and 12 in which the phrase "the abnormality signal" has been changed to "an abnormality signal."

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding claim objections is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

As to the merits of this case, the following rejections are set forth:

- 1) claims 1, 2, 4 - 6 and 8 - 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Tominaga (U.S. Patent No. 5,237,208); and
- 2) claims 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on Tominaga in view of Luo (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005-0073783).

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

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First, Tominaga is concerned with a device having a structural arrangement having a plurality of triport uninterruptable power source (UPS) devices arranged in parallel connection. In Tominaga's device, burdens of load laid on individual UPSs are made proportionate to the capacities of the individual UPSs; and suppression of circulating current among the inverters and the synchronous operation of the UPSs are enabled. Further in Tominaga, removal of a UPS in trouble from parallel operation can be attained without disturbance.

Tominaga does not however describe or suggest a structural that corresponds to "abnormality signal output means for outputting an abnormality signal to the power source circuits when an abnormality occurs in the own circuit" as recited in claim 1. Also, Tominaga does not describe or suggest that the inverters, which correspond to power source circuits of the instant claimed invention, have a structural arrangement in which an output voltage is monitored to thereby stably control the output voltage to a desired voltage, as now recited in each of claims 5, 10 and 12.

The applicants' claimed invention includes a plurality of power source circuits, which are connected to a single power source; and each of the power source circuits independently performs output control so that the plurality power source circuits generate plural voltages. In the claimed invention, the input and output of an abnormality signal are performed between any power source

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circuit of the plurality of power source circuits and the other power source circuits; and when an abnormality signal is inputted from the other power source circuits, operation shutdown is conducted by the abnormality signal in synchronism with the other power source circuits. Also in the applicants' claimed invention, simultaneous shutdown between any power source circuits of the plural power source circuits is possible. Moreover, synchronous oscillation of any power source circuit of the plurality of power source circuits with the master power source circuit is possible.

Thus, not all of the claimed elements and features of the applicants' invention are found in exactly the same situation and united in the same way to perform the identical function in Tominaga's device. Accordingly, there can be no anticipation under 35 USC §102(b) of the claimed invention based on Tominaga.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding anticipation rejection under 35 USC §102(b) based on Tominaga (U.S. Patent No. 5,237,208) is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Second, the Examiner is of the opinion that claims 3 and 7 are unpatentable over Tominaga in view of Luo because Luo discloses a configuration in which input and output of the abnormality signal are conducted by using a single terminal.

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The applicants submit however that Luo does not supplement the above-discussed deficiencies or drawbacks in the teachings of Tominaga in failing to fully meet the applicants' claimed invention. As such, the suggested combined teachings of the references would still fall far short in fully meeting the claimed invention; and a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found the claimed invention obvious based on the teachings of the cited references, singly or in combination.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejection under 35 USC §103(a) based on Tominaga in view of Luo (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005-0073783) is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures:

- Replacement Sheet of Drawings (Figs. 9)
- Annotate Sheet of Drawings (Fig. 9)
- Substitute Abstract of the Disclosure
- Petition for Extension of Time (1-month)

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Fig. 9. This sheet, which includes Fig. 9, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 9.

In Fig. 9, reference notation “a” is included, as required by the Examiner, to show signal “a” to represent “a period in which the counter 372 shown in FIG. 9 conducts counting,” as described in the applicants’ specification (line 7, page 17).

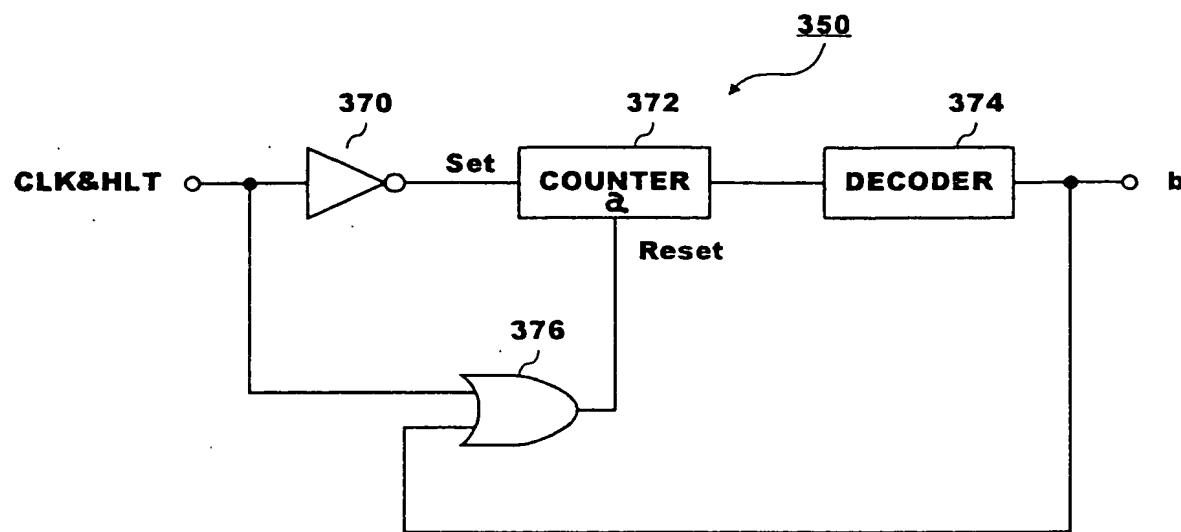


FIG. 9

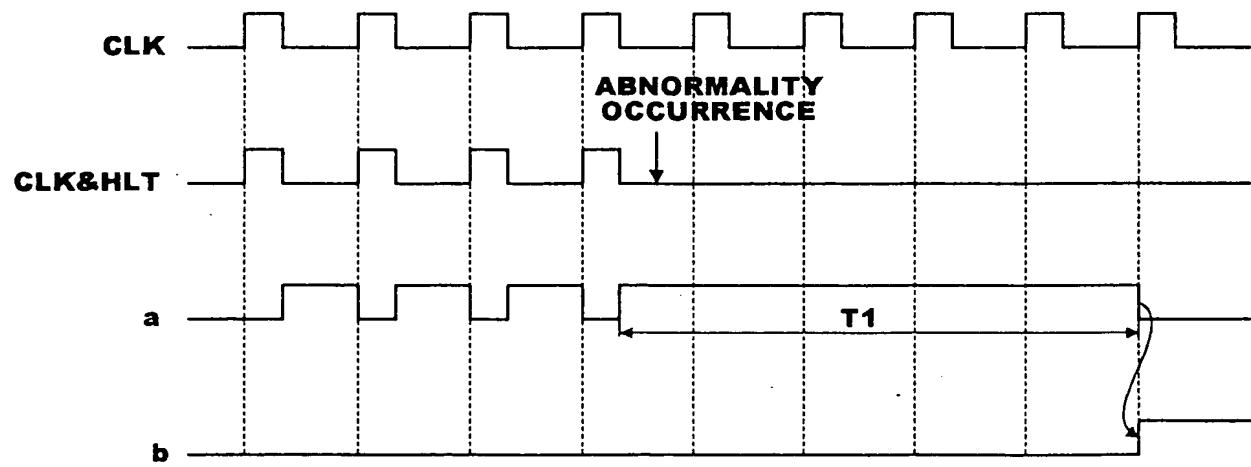


FIG. 10